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societies including missionary societies acting on behalf of the depressed classes. The Government do not know whether land has been assigned to the Christian Missionary Societies in the districts referred to; and have no reason for thinking that the facts are as stated in clause (f).

- (e) Pattas are issued in the names of the persons or societies in whose favour the land has been assigned.

Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO :—“ Since the hon. the Revenue Member is not in his place, may I be allowed to ask the question, Sir ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ There are other hon. Members of the Government who can reply to the question.”

(Just then the hon. the Revenue Member entered the hall.)

Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO :—“ With regard to clauses (b) and (c) the Government say they have no information. May I request the Government to get the information ? ”

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—“ Yes, Sir.”

Land Revenue

Levy of ground-rent in rural and urban areas.

* 1763 Q.—SYED TAJUDIN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to call for and lay on the table a talukwar statement of the excess of the ground-rent levied in all rural areas under Board's Standing Order No. 21 and in urban areas of this Presidency over the agricultural assessment for the years 1925–26–27 with the latest orders passed by them in 1927 as to revision of ground-rents during every resettlement period ?

A.—Rupees 43,600 was paid in 1926–27 to municipalities as the excess of ground-rent over the agricultural assessment. No further particulars are available.

No orders have been issued for the revision of ground-rents during every resettlement period.

Public Service

Selection of applicants for personal interview.

* 1764 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: With regard to the answer to clause (e) of question No. 1226, referred to in question No. 1391 answered on 24th January 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations were at any time made to the Government that all the candidates who apply for posts should be called for a personal interview, and if so, when and by whom ; and

(b) whether in view of the very large number of applications received for every post that is notified in the Gazette, the Government will consider the desirability of carefully scrutinizing the applications in the first instance and calling only the most suitable candidates for a personal interview ?

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A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government do not consider it desirable to adopt the suggestion as it would lead to discontent among the candidates not summoned for personal interviews.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—“With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know, when the number of appointments to be made is only very few and hundreds of candidates apply for them, what the necessity is to call all these applicants for a personal interview and subject them to expense, inconvenience and disappointment?”

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—“That is answered in clause (b).”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Marine

Recommendations of the Committee appointed in England on the Tuticorin Harbour Works.

1765 Q.—**Mr. J. A. SALDANHA**: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the recommendations are of the Committee appointed in England as to the Tuticorin Harbour Works; and

(b) what orders Government have passed or contemplate passing?

A.—(a) The report of the Committee has been published in the Press Communiqué issued on 7th March 1928.

(b) No orders have yet been passed and Government are unable to say what orders they will pass in the future.

Constitution of the Cochin Port Trust.

1766 Q.—**Mr. J. A. SALDANHA**: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Cochin Port Conservancy Board as to the acquisition of lands or waters for the port of Cochin in the State of Cochin; and

(b) when the Cochin Port Trust will be constituted?

A.—(a) The Government have not received any such recommendation.

(b) The Cochin Port Trust cannot be constituted until the Cochin Port Trust Act, 1925, is brought into force; this Act cannot be brought into force until certain arrangements to be made with the Cochin Darbar are complete.

Minor Irrigation

Repairs to Mathalai Mannadykulam tank in the Madura district.

* 1767 Q.—**Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARAPANDYA NADAR**: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the tank known as Mathalai Mannadykulam in the village of Mela-Gudaloor, Madura district, is in urgent need of repairs and whether general repairs to the tank have not been carried out within the last twenty years;